

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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R 060845Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9651
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7372

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, IR
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ON NEW GOI AMBASSADORS

1. A SERIES OF INTERDEPENDENT CHANGES IN GOI REPRESENTATION ABROAD TOOK PLACE RECENTLY. ALL THREE OF THE REASSIGNED AMBASSADORS ARE CAREER DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD SENIOR POSITIONS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. SADEGH SADRIEYH, 54, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. HE IS A GRADUATE OF TEHRAN UNIVERSITY (LAW; 1945) AND HAS A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE (1953). PREVIOUS POSTS INCLUDED STUTTGART, PARIS, HERAT (AFGHANISTAN), KUWAIT, TEL AVIV AND BERN. HE WAS AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST FROM 1970 TO 1973 AND AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD FROM 1976 UNTIL HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT. FROM 1973-1976 HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIAN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY. SADRIEYH HAS HELD SEVERAL OTHER MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF THE SECRETARIAT. EMBASSY TEHRAN OFFICES HAVE FOUND HIM COOPERATIVE, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT READILY VOLUNTEER INFORMATION, HE IS QUITE FORTHCOMING (BY IRANIAN OFFICIAL STANDARDS) IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. SADRIEYH WAS MARRIED IN
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1974 AND BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE SPEAK ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HE, AT LEAST, SPEAKS GERMAN. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN. (MOST RECENT BIO UPDATE PROVIDED BAGHDAD 1282.)

3. HOOSHANG AMIR-MOKRI, HAVING BEEN REPLACED BY SADREIYH, WILL BE MOVING EASTWARD AS AMBASSADOR TO POLAND. MFA SOURCES ASSERT THAT AMIR-MOKRI'S BRIEF ENNURE IN BONN

(LESS THAN ONE YEAR) IS NOT THE RESULT OF ANY PERSONAL FAILING ON HIS PART BUT RATHER A RESULT OF "ADMINISTRATIVE NECESSITY". IN FACT, PRESIDENT AND MRS. SCHEEL PAID A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN LAST APRIL. PRIOR TO HIS SERVICE IN GERMANY AMIR-MOKRI WAS A DIRECTOR GENERAL IN MFA SUPERVISING SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE ALSO SERVED A NUMBER OF YEARS WITH THE IRANIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. EMBASSY TEHRAN CONTACTS HAVE FOUND AMIR-MOKRI FRIENDLY AND KNOWLEDGEABLE. HE LISTENS CAREFULLY, UNDERSTANDS THE POINT QUICKLY AND DOES NOT INDULGE IN PALAVER. HE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN OBTAINING DECISIONS FOR US WITHIN DEADLINES, SOMETIMES IMMEDIATELY MAKING THE DECISION HIMSELF. (WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY BONN'S ASSESSMENT OF AMIR-MOKRI'S TOUR AND ANY ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE AT THAT POST.)

4. FEREIDOUN ZANDFARD, RECENTLY REPLACED IN PAKISTAN BY SAVAK CHIEF GEN. NASSIRI, HAS NOW BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ REPLACING SADRIEYH. ZANDFARD, 52, GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE ENTERED MFA IN 1948 AND HAS SERVED IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS: RECORDS, TREATIES AND LEGAL AFFAIRS; PERSONNEL; ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPT; AND MIDDLE EAST AND PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS. ABROAD HE HAS SERVED AT THE IRANIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK AND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT 1971-76. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM KUWAIT HE WAS HEAD OF THE MFA DIPLOMATIC PLANS AND PROJECTS COUNCIL (SIMILAR TO STATE'S S/P). ZANDFARD SERVED ABOUT ONE YEAR IN ISLAMABAD BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE POLITICALLY HARD-TO-PLACE NASSIRI. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ZANDFARD FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, GOING BACK TO THE LATE 60S WHEN HE WAS HEAD OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS DEPT. HE HAS BEEN GENERALLY WELL INFORMED, THOUGH DISCREET, AND REASONABLY FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSING GOI POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH HIS PRIMARY AREA OF EXPERTISE HAS BEEN THE PERSIAN GULF, HE HAS BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE OF WIDER CONCERNS THROUGH HIS POLICY PLANNING EXPERIENCE. WHILE HE PRESENTS A FAIRLY UNIMPRESSIVE FIRST IMPRESSION, A SHY PERSON WITH RETIRING DEMEANOR, HE IS REPORTEDLY HELD IN PARTICULARLY HIGH REGARD BY HIS MFA COLLEAGUES. THIS IS REFLECTED BY HIS RELATIVELY RAPID REASSIGNMENT TO ONE OF IRAN'S MOST IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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